

GENERAL NOTES

NORTHERN PHALAROPE IN MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO.

A Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) was seen by the writer at Pine Lake, Mahoning County, Ohio, October 9th, 1915.

The bird spent part of the time on the shore feeding, and part in floating on the choppy surface of the lake, about two feet from the shore. It took to the water possibly for recreation or diversion, as it was not seen to take food while in the water.

It was most pleasing to see this small shorebird swimming with such surprising ease and grace. This is the first known record for this species in Mahoning County.

JOHN P. YOUNG.

SCREECH OWL OCCUPYING A BOX.

Early this spring I constructed from fir lumber a large nest box according to design No. 19 in U. S. Bulletin, "Bird boxes and how to build them." This box is large enough for sparrow hawks and screech owls, and was privately dedicated to the use of a screech owl, who seemed to be staying in the neighborhood. Until recently there were no signs of occupancy. The past few weeks the owl has been giving his peculiar vocal selections, morning and evening, from the group of trees where the box is hung, and a few days ago I was fortunate enough to find him peering out into the dusk, awaiting a favorable time to begin his nocturnal hunting. Since then he can be seen every evening, his oddly shaped head having the appearance of a kitten looking out of the hole.

A couple of largest size Perry boxes have hung in these trees for a year or so, but either the openings are not quite large enough, or the locations are in some way unsuitable, as they have never been used. The board box now occupied is placed in a thick part of the tree, facing southeast. This direction protects the opening from our coldest winds, as well as the heat and sunshine of most of the day. I feel much gratified to know this interesting and valuable feathered guest has accepted my hospitality, and joined the other birds who make our yard their winter home.

Although screech owls are common enough in all towns, reports of their occupying boxes are not often seen, and I venture to mention this instance to the Wilson Club, for the benefit of others who may be cultivating their acquaintance.

Iowa, Nov. 1915.

T. H. W.